

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 11178

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: APRIL 15 INFORMATION GROUP MEETING

REF: PARIS 10020

1. MEETING CHAIRMAN, MINISTER HIRRAOKA OF JAPAN, PROPOSED THAT SUBSTANCE OF SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS (102 EX/19) BE DISCUSSED FIRST BEFORE MOVING ON TO OTHER BUSINESS. BULK OF MEETING, THEREFORE, WAS OCCUPIED WITH IG MEMBER DELEGATES GIVING VIEWS OF DOCUMENT.

2. MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION RAISED WAS WHETHER COMMITTEE ON RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONVENTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS WHILE SUBJECT DOCUMENT, WHICH INVOLVES A REVIEW OF UNESCO'S HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISM IS UNDER DISCUSSION. IT WAS POINTED OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT NO MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED DURING THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR COMMITTEE SESSIONS ON MAY 16-17, BUT THIS WILL BE TOO LATE FOR COMMITTEE TO PRE-
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SENT REPORT TO THE BOARD. IG MEMBERS WERE UNANIMOUS IN OPINION THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTINUE TO MEET UNDER PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED RULES OF PROCEDURE, AND THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO INSURE THAT IT BE ABLE TO REPORT TO THE 102 EXBD, AS WELL AS CONTINUE ITS WORK UNTIL ANOTHER MECHANISM IS ADOPTED TO SUCCEED IT.

3. US PERMDEL FOLLOWED THIS DISCUSSION WITH PRESENTATION OF US PROPOSAL TO CREATE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL DIFFUSE EFFECT ON UNESCO OF POLITICAL DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES. AFTER DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE, HE POINTED OUT THAT US DEL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE IDEA IN LOW KEY FASHION DURING OUR INTERVENTION GENERALLY SUPPORTING SECRETARIAT'S DOCUMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AIM OF US PROPOSAL, HE CONTINUED, IS TO BRING COMMITTEE INTO EXISTENCE WHICH WILL HEAR AND SCREEN DISPUTES, THUS ENABLING THEM TO BE DEALT WITH IN CALM, RATIONAL, AND DISPASSIONATE WAY. SINCE THIS MECHANISM WILL CONCENTRATE ON DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES, IT SHOULD NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH MECHANISMS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE WHICH DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS. CONCLUDING PERMDEL TOLD IG MEMBERS THAT HE WOULD WELCOME THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON SUBSTANCE OF US INITIATIVE AND INTENDED TO FOLLOW UP WITH INDIVIDUAL APPROACHES TO MEMBERS.

4. ONLY COMMENT WAS FROM CANADIAN AMBASSADOR BEAULNE WHO WELCOMED PROPOSAL AS POSITIVE SUGGESTION WHICH WAS WORTH A THOROUGH EXAMINATION. FACT THAT MANY MEMBERS (EC-9, FOR EXAMPLE) HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED PROPOSAL AND HAD BEEN GIVEN COPIES OF TEXT OF US INITIATIVE, PROBABLY LIMITED EXTENT OF COMMENT. PERMDEL THANKED MEMBERS FOR THEIR ATTENTION, AND ASKED THAT TOPIC BE INSCRIBED ON NEXT IG MEETING AGENDA, SET FOR MAY 5 TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW UP ACTION NECESSARY FOR INITIATIVE TO SUCCEED.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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